

WEATHER FORECAST:  
Probably Rain Tonight.  
Full Report on Page Three.

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## HUERTA PLANS TO CONFISCATE WEALTH OF ALL WHO HAVE BEEN OPPOSING HIM

Contemplates Drastic Action to Provide Sinews of War in Spite of His Desperate Financial Crisis.

Wilson's Policy Expected to Prevent American Bankers From Participating in Loan Being Negotiated in Paris.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 21.—Confiscation of the wealth of all persons known to have opposed or to have been lukewarm toward the Huerta regime is the plan the Mexican dictator and his cabinet are now said to be discussing.

This drastic measure, it was said, is certain to be carried out through a presidential proclamation if it is found impossible to raise a new loan outside of Mexico. This action, it was pointed out, would be a rich source of revenue and furnish the sinews of war for an indefinite period.

It was admitted today by prominent officials that Huerta is facing the most desperate financial crisis since he assumed the reins of government.

It is regarded extremely doubtful whether Huerta will be able to raise another loan outside of Mexico for general purposes, these men say, and without money it is conceded the government lease of life must be near an end.

Confiscation Being Urged.

The most drastic measure now discussed by the cabinet is one to confiscate by presidential proclamation the property of all individuals who are known to have opposed or to have been lukewarm toward the Huerta regime. This action, if adopted, would provide a rich source of revenue and would furnish the sinews of war for an indefinite period.

The move, it is argued, would be only a step further than has already been taken in the exaction of forced loans in cities outside the capital, and in Huerta's recent order for the establishment of militia companies at the expense of merchants and business men generally in various states.

Bank Crisis Still Afloat.

The banking situation continued bad, state bank bills still being unaccepted except in limited amounts at the Central Bank.

Official circles pretended to find satisfaction in the news from Paris that an underwriting syndicate of bankers had arranged for a loan to the Mexican government sufficient to meet the bond interest payments falling due in January. But it was pointed out by others that this money could be used for no other purpose than the bond payments and thus could in no way relieve Huerta's financial stringency.

New York Bankers in Loan.

The Paris loan was arranged through the Bank of Paris. The underwriting group is composed of Paris, London and New York bankers, and is said to include the Eysen of New York, although this report was denied by Eysen & Co. here.

Among banking interests conversant with Mexican affairs, says the Paris dispatch, it was regarded as unlikely that the firm of Eysen & Co. would have become a party to the loan.

It was pointed out that such a procedure would be opposed to the policy which President Wilson seeks of having Huerta "starved out" financially. Only this week James Speyer, head of the firm, had a lengthy conference with the White House with President Wilson, being the first big financier to be so received by the President.

Funeral Pyres For Dead.

Flaming funeral pyres burned today for 300 constitutionalists and federal dead who were killed in a battle yesterday at Concepcion del Oro. The federalists were victorious.

## CIVIC EXPERT TO FIGHT CRISP BILL



RICHARD B. WATROUS.

## NATION-WIDE BODIES ENLIST IN FIGHT TO DEFEND THE CAPITAL

American Civic Association and Chamber of Commerce of United States to Aid War on Crisp Bill.

The American Civic Association today goes on record as pledged to make war on such injudicious legislation as the Crisp bill.

Indications are that the attitude of the House District Committee will be brought before the Chamber of Commerce of the United States at its convention here next February.

These are two new developments in the nation-wide campaign that has been started in Washington to educate the citizens of the United States as to the needs of the District of Columbia and to make clear to them the injustice of such attacks as that engineered by the House committee in the matter of the Crisp half-half measure.

District Delegate's Duty.

Elliott H. Goodwin, general secretary of the National Chamber of Commerce, said today that any delegate to the convention next February might properly bring up the matter of the half-half measure on the floor, and William F. Gude, former president of the Washington Chamber of Commerce and (Continued on Second Page.)

## FOUR MAY DIE FROM POISONED COFFEE

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 21.—Four persons were poisoned, perhaps fatally, today when they drank coffee, evidently containing some deadly drug, in their home at 31 North Central avenue.

The injured persons, who are now in St. Joseph's Hospital, are: Mrs. Cecilia Richmond, fifty-five years old.

Michael Richmond, fifty-eight, her husband.

Mrs. Beattie Morgenstein, thirty-five, daughter of the Richmonds.

Stella Morgenstein, seven, daughter of Mrs. Morgenstein.

Mr. Richmond's condition was so serious he could not be questioned.

Three hours after the four were taken to the hospital, physicians were still at work on them with stomach pumps, and it was said that their condition was critical.

Man Meets Death in Philadelphia Stable Fire

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—One man was burned to death, another is believed to have met the same fate, twenty-six horses were killed and 300 rescued during a stable fire at Ninth and Reed streets early today.

The rescued horses, turned loose in the street, stampeded through the crowds, and scores of men and women narrowly escaped injury.

No estimate has been made of the loss, but it will undoubtedly run high.

Injured by Automobile.

George Ryan, 55 years old, of 202 Tenth street, was knocked down by an automobile at Seventh and T streets this afternoon and suffered severe injuries to his back and scalp. He was taken to the Emergency Hospital by George E. Donaldson, who was driving the machine that struck Ryan.

## CONFEREES ARE AT WORK TODAY ON MONEY BILL

Democrats From Senate and House Have Score of Points of Difference to Settle.

REPUBLICANS ARE BARRED

Joint Committee Hopes to Have Final Report Ready for President Tuesday Night.

With a score of points of difference between them, and with every prospect of a sharp controversy before reaching an agreement, the Senate and House conferees are in session today and expect to remain in session much of the night trying to reach an adjustment on the currency bill.

Only the Democratic members of the two conference committees are in attendance at the meeting at the Capitol today. As in the case of the conferees on the tariff bill, the Republican conferees are allowed to have no say in the final shaping of the measure.

Difficulties To Be Bridged.

Although there has been much talk that the conference report was practically written in informal meetings attended by Secretary McAdoo, Chairman Glass of the House Banking Committee, and Chairman Owen of the Senate Banking Committee, it has become plain since the conferees actually met that there are important difficulties to be bridged over.

Members of the conference committee could be drafted and agreed on in time to make a report to the House tomorrow afternoon. If this can be done, it probably means the bill will be finally passed and signed by the President.

A significant declaration by Chairman Carter Glass of the House committee shows the feeling among some of the House leaders that the bill as it passed the Senate is far from perfect.

"Six months after the passage of this bill there would be a veritable saturation of inflation in this country," said Chairman Glass in a warning statement from Chairman Glass gains additional force.

Chairman Glass is insistent that the reserve requirements be made greater than in the Senate bill. He thinks there are so lessened that there is peril ahead.

Senate Riddled Bill.

The way in which the Senate has riddled the House bill is not at all pleasing to the residents of the village, who after the prospect of seeing the bill go down to history as more of a Senate structure than a structure to which he can lay claim to credit. This is a factor in the situation as between the conferees, and one that may prove an obstacle to an early agreement.

Among the points of difference between House and Senate which the conferees are wrestling with today are: The number of regional banks, the reserve requirements, the maximum limitation of twelve.

The personnel of the Federal Reserve Board, including the question whether the Secretary of Agriculture shall serve or not.

A question whether the member banks shall get 5 per cent or 6 per cent on their stock in the regional banks.

A different reserve requirements of the two bills.

The guarantee of deposit feature of the Senate bill.

Station Is Renamed For President Wilson

WINSTED, Conn., Dec. 21.—The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company will rename its station on the Berkshire line known for many years as South Kent, and will call it Woodrow. Recently the name of the station was changed to Lily Lake, but that name did not prove popular with the residents of the village, who after considerable discussion, united upon Woodrow, and so informed the railroad company.

The town of Kent in the last Presidential election gave the William H. Taft electors 94 votes and the Woodrow Wilson electors 8.

Social Worker Will Wed Society Leader

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 21.—Miss Louise Carey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kling Carey, 29 Cathedral street, leaders in the most exclusive circles of Baltimore society, and Dr. Joshua Rosett, physician, dramatist and sociologist, who lives at 1501 East January, according to social workers among whom both Miss Carey and Dr. Rosett are prominent. Neither would deny the report today.

Convention Hall, Prize Fish Walk Monday night. Admission Free.—Adv.

## XMAS MAIL IS PILING UP ALL OVER COUNTRY

First Holiday Rush of Parcel Post Puts the System to Severe Test.

CLERKS ARE SWAMPED

Thousands of Extra Employees Working Continuously in Every Big City.

This is the first Parcel Post Christmas.

With its enormous volume of business, it is putting the Government to its first real sizing up of its ability to handle the parcel transportation of the country.

With a few exceptions the Post-office Department has been able, so far, by means of a great increase in help, to keep up with most of the demands made upon its facilities.

The great crush and the final test will come on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Whether it will be met, or whether the same delay which has attended the delivery of Christmas mail for years past will be experienced, is an open question.

Cities Face Congestion.

Correspondents of The Washington Sunday Times in the great centers of population today wired the exact conditions in their cities. These reports show that a greater volume of mail is in transit than has ever before been carried by the postoffice.

Delivery may be accomplished by almost superhuman effort, there is serious likelihood of congestion in the mail matter in many of the cities, with a corresponding failure of delivery service.

The worst congestion today is in Denver, where a severe snowstorm is added handicap to the collectors and distributors of mail, and there is already enough work on hand there to keep them busy till Christmas Eve.

Buffalo reports an increase of 100 per cent over its business at this period last year, and spaces in the corridors of the main postoffice there have been roped off in which bundles will be piled Monday and Tuesday while awaiting distribution.

Trouble in Boston.

Another large city that has got into difficulty is Boston, which reports an increase of 70 per cent in the tonnage of its incoming and outgoing mail, with an increase of but 25 per cent in the force handling it. By working until late this morning the force there managed to clean up the carloads of mail received last night, but Postmaster General McAdoo warned that the difficulties of the next three days would be even more serious.

York is working three large shifts, maintaining twenty-four-hour service, and so thoroughly have the extra employees of the postoffice been drilled in their new duties that no undue congestion is expected.

Postmaster Edward M. Morgan said that he expects to be able to deliver on Christmas Day a mail package mailed in New York early that morning. At the Grand Central station 30,000 bags of mail were handled Saturday.

President Ralph Peters, of the Long Island railroad, and chairman of the railroad mail pay committee, said that the express companies have been very hard hit by the parcel post system, and that the railroad mail service is co-operating with the Government, he said, to make the first Christmas of the parcel post system a success.

Baltimore Ready for Rush.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 21.—With 85,000 packages coming and going as the high tide so far reached, Major L. M. Rawlins, head of the parcel post division of the local postoffice, said today that his force of men and his available equipment are in readiness to see that amount increased in the three days before Christmas without any congestion of the service. Yesterday was the busiest day the Baltimore postoffice ever has had.

Knowing how popular the service would be for Christmas packages the department here has been preparing for the rush since the first of the year.

"What helped us has been the movement for earlier mailing of packages for Christmas gifts. This had the effect of starting the Christmas mail as early as the first part of last week. We do not know when the mail will be reached, but hope it will be soon."

Extra vehicles have been hired for the delivery of mail, and the force of men is at work, and these are expected to be sufficient to handle the rush.

New York in Fine Shape.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Postoffice officials here unite in declaring there is no congestion in handling either mail matter or parcel post. Although the holiday rush is nearly at its height, so effective are the arrangements for handling the increased business that the employees have been able to make deliveries to all houses and firms on time.

The efficient measures taken are shown in the regularity of the wagon service.

(Continued on Third Page.)

"New York and Florida Special."

27th season of finest train operated to Florida, Cuba, south Atlantic Coast Line, 6:20 p. m. daily, effective Jan. 1st. Other trains daily. 1406 New York ave. n. w. —Adv.

## FIRST PICTURE OF THE SAYRES ABROAD



MR. and MRS. FRANCIS E. SAYRE enjoying the wit of "Tuck" in the home of Ambassador Page at London on December 12. The day this photo was made, they were the guests of honor at a dinner tendered them by Lord Halifax. After a brief sojourn in Wales, the "White House Couple" will return to America.

## FIRE RUINS STORE IN WORCESTER, MASS.

Defective Wiring in Santa Claus Exhibit Causes \$750,000 Loss.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 21.—Fire discovered this forenoon destroyed the seventy department store of the C. T. Sherer Company, Front and Commercial streets, in Worcester.

The loss at noon was estimated at \$750,000. A general alarm was sounded because of the location of the building in the heart of the business district. It is believed the fire originated from the electrical wiring in a Santa Claus exhibit. Shortly after 5 o'clock a series of hoarse explosions occurred on several floors simultaneously.

Three firemen were injured by flying glass.

## GIRL'S BODY FOUND AS LAKE IS DRAINED

BALTIMORE, Dec. 21.—The body of Marjorie Magann, twenty-one years old, who disappeared from her home 1728 Gormuch avenue last Wednesday night, was found this morning in Clifton Park reservoir.

For forty-four hours past the lake was being drained in an effort to locate the body, and it lacked but a few hours of being entirely emptied when her form was found on the bottom of the reservoir.

Mrs. Mary Teresa Magann, mother of Marjorie, and her sister, Mrs. Mary T. Flayhart, are firm in the belief that the finding of the body or their loved one was in answer to their supplications to the Blessed Virgin.

For even as the searchers were bringing the body of the girl to the surface of Lake Clifton, mother and sister were kneeling in prayer before a statue of the Virgin in St. Bernard's Catholic Church, offering prayers that the body of Marjorie would be restored to them.

The girl left her home Wednesday, ostensibly to attend St. Bernard's Church. For several months she had been in ill health, suffering from stomach trouble.

Articles of the girl's clothing were found in the roadway near the reservoir. Attached to them was a note which read "Marjorie Magann, 1728 Gormuch avenue."

## Wilson May Act Tonight On Carabao Incident

President Wilson's eagerly awaited decision on the Carabao dinner incident was not made today, but it was said at the White House the President might make a statement tonight dealing with the political contents in the Administration's Philippine policy and their travesty on Secretary Bryan's peace cruises.

## WILSON IN TOUCH WITH CONFEREES

President Hopes to Be Able to Go South Tuesday Night.

President and Mrs. Wilson and their daughters, Misses Margaret and Eleanor, attended services at Central Presbyterian Church this morning. When he returned to the White House the President received reports of the progress being made by the conferees on the currency bill.

There is the keenest anxiety at the White House over reports from the committee room of the possibility of such a delay in reaching an agreement as to interfere with the President's plans for starting Tuesday evening on his three weeks' vacation to Pass Christian, Miss.

The President continues to be hopeful, however, that the bill will reach him in time to enable him to sign it as a Christmas present to the American people, and early enough to permit his departure on scheduled time.

Members of the President's family are packing in preparation for the trip. At present the program is for the President, Mrs. Wilson, and their two daughters and Dr. Cary Grayson to leave Washington at 10 o'clock Tuesday night, arriving in Pass Christian about 8 o'clock Christmas morning.

They will occupy a house known as Herndon Place, and owned by Mrs. J. M. Ayer, of Chicago.

James Murphy, of the White House Secret Service staff, already has gone to Pass Christian to make arrangements for the visit.

Amusement was expressed by members of the Secret Service force today over reports from Pass Christian that the mayor had issued orders that any "natives" found loitering within 300 feet of the temporary "White House" during the President's stay, will be put in the calaboose and held there until the President's departure.

The White House staff was perfectly willing for such an arrangement to be made, because they declare the President needs a complete rest to bring back his health, and they believe the quiet of the Mississippi river, and the exercise on the excellent golf links it provides, will prove beneficial.

At present the quarantine is up against the quarantines of the United States, and Ireland has a surplus.

## Man Plunges to Death From Hospital Window

BALTIMORE, Dec. 21.—Leaping from a third-floor window of the Maryland General Hospital, Ruben H. Henry, a farmer of Woodbine, Md., a patient in the institution, killed himself today. The coroner gave a verdict that the man committed suicide during a fit of delirium. Henry, who was thirty-five years old, was admitted to the hospital on December 13 suffering from pneumonia. He was placed in a bed on one of the third floors on the third floor of the institution. His condition this morning, it is said, was not critical.

## POTATO SHORTAGE MENACING NATION

Despite Rise in Price Horticultural Board May Extend Embargo on Imports.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture today urged American farmers to profit by the German example, and raise a plentiful crop of potatoes, and a plentiful crop of potatoes, and a plentiful crop of potatoes.

It is expected that the board's order, which is to be promulgated this week, will include Canada.

This dealers say will mean 22 potatoes in a short time.

The Department of Agriculture issued a statement today urging American farmers to profit by the German example, and raise a plentiful crop of potatoes, and a plentiful crop of potatoes, and a plentiful crop of potatoes.

A bulletin of the department declares there can be no use for any surplus crop in starch or alcohol making, stock feeding, and in drying. With a reserve supply for these purposes, the department urges there would be a reserve source of potatoes for food supply.

Dr. Marlatt, chairman of the horticultural board, declared today there was no crop shortage in the United States, as claimed, but that last year's crop was above the ten-year average.

Nevertheless, potatoes in this section of the country are at present retailing above last year's high prices.

Millions have been imported, particularly at Philadelphia, to supply the Eastern markets. These potatoes came from the countries of northern Europe, that are now threatened with quarantine that will prevent further importations.

At present the quarantine is up against the quarantines of the United States, and Ireland has a surplus.

## Underground Water Supply for Kansas

GOODLAND, Kan., Dec. 21.—There is more water in western Kansas than the people can ever use, said Erasmus Haworth, professor of geology in the University of Kansas.

Prof. Haworth displayed a map showing a good water supply from twenty-five to 150 feet beneath the surface of fifty per cent of the western half of the State. If the farmers would utilize these streams, he said, Kansas would become one of the greatest irrigation States in the Union.

## BATTLE AGAINST FILMS AFTER INSPECTIONS AT MAJESTIC BY CENSORS

Allowed in Baltimore, Only Part of Exhibition Necessary to Convince Officials Here as to Its Unfitness.

Major Sylvester and Party Declare Pictures Scheduled for Theater in Washington Unfit for Public to See.

Major Richard Sylvester and the Board of Censors, after a brief review of the morality motion picture play, "The Inside of the White Slave Traffic," this afternoon, placed a ban on its production, and directed the management of the Majestic Theater, where it was scheduled to be produced, to cancel the week's engagement.

One and a half hours of the show were all that was necessary to assist the members of the Censorship Board in making up their minds regarding the "movie" which has been heralded all over the country for weeks, and which the New York police have unqualifiedly taboos.

The police took possession of the film, and this afternoon will turn them over to the District property clerk. The management of the production may have possession of them by applying tomorrow and identifying them, the police say.

Too Bad for Washington.

"It's too bad for New York, it certainly should not be shown in Washington," said Major Sylvester, commenting on the picture play, following the private exhibition given earlier in the day at the Colonial Theater.

"The play is demoralizing in the extreme. It is not fit to be viewed by a Washington audience. It is indecent. The first part of the production was bad enough, but would warrant its being banned. With each successive scene the red by the operator, the show became worse. After viewing one reel and part of another, we unanimously agreed not to show it in public here."

Not only have action, given earlier in the day at the Colonial Theater, in command of the first production, in the Majestic Theater, and the superintendent's office, and Sergeant Lee, of the First precinct, constituted the censorship board.

The action of the Washington Board of Censors, having the play question follows a similar step taken by the New York police. Agitation against the play, under whose direction the "White Slave Traffic" originated, and the show has found it rough sledding elsewhere as a result.

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